GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2661
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
CONSERVATION OF IRON ORE RESERVES
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iron-ore mines allocated during each of the last three years till-date, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether merchant miners are acquiring large number of mines for export purposes without adding value;

(c) if so, the total quantity of iron-ore exported during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and conserve iron-ore reserves in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) The State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mineral concessions and prior approval of Central Government is required for grant of mineral concession for minerals listed in First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which also includes iron ore. The year-wise details of mineral concession proposals approved by Central Government including those approved for grant of mining lease for iron ore during last three years are available on website of Ministry of Mines (http://www.mines.nic.in).

(b) Under the National Mineral Policy in 1993, mining for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals has been thrown open for private sector investment and an Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 can undertake mining based on the economic viability of the project. Mining is a stand-alone activity. The Central Government, based on the State Government recommendations, accords prior approval for grant of mineral concessions in terms of the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules framed there under. The export of minerals including iron ore is as per the EXIM policy of the Government.

(c) The export figures of the iron ore as provided by Ministry of Commerce are as under:

Year	Export (Quantity in Million Metric Tonnes)
2004-05	78.14
2005-06	89.27
2006-07 (Provisional)	93.79
2007-08 (Apr-Dec)	63.58

(d) The Government is of the view that management of mineral resources is closely integrated with the overall strategy of development of minerals whereby exploitation of minerals is to be guided by long-term national goals and perspectives. The country has sufficient resources of iron ore at 25.25 billion tonnes, and these are increasing with further exploitation.